



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

WASHINGTON, DC 20231
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FORM CD-260
REV. 6-86
DAO 202-335

Delegated Examining

Announcement Number: **PTO-06-062A**
Issue Date: **03/14/06**
Closing Date: **11/21/06**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TITLE, SERIES, AND GRADE

Patent Examiner (Chemical Engineering/Material Science)
GS-1224-11
Salary Range: \$58,660 - \$76,262
Full Performance Level GS-13

***(Potential for GS-13 based on demonstrated performance)**

Work Schedule: Full Time

Competitive Service

POPA bargaining unit position

Note: One or more positions may be filled using this vacancy announcement.

***Note: Patent Examiners are required to take a written examination prior to promotion to the GS-13 level.**

VACANCY LOCATION

Patent and Trademark Office
Technology Center 1700
Alexandria, VA

AREA OF CONSIDERATION

All U. S. Citizens
DOC Surplus, Displaced Employees in local commuting area

Applicants may not re-apply for this position within 6 months unless there is a material change in educational or experience attainment.

Amendment: Applicants who applied for PTO-06-002 need not reapply to be considered.

DUTIES: Reviewing patent applications to assess if they comply with the basic format, rules, and legal requirements, determining the scope of the protection claimed by the inventor, researching relevant technologies to compare similar prior inventions with the invention claimed in the patent applications, and communicating the examiner's findings to patent practitioners/inventors with reasons on the patentability of applicant's inventions. Patent Examiners are responsible for the quality, productivity, and timely processing of patent applications, which is the basis of their performance evaluation. At the GS-11 level, incumbent independently performs "Basic" patent examining functions (e.g., planning and conducting the search, applying references to the claimed invention, etc.) with no preliminary instructions from the supervisor. References used to determine whether or not the claimed invention is new and patentable are presented for review. Performs "Advanced" patent examining functions (e.g., the evaluation of special claim constructions, the requirement of restrictions, the recognition and development of probable interferences, etc.) with no preliminary instructions, but all determinations involving such functions receive close review. Incumbent may perform some "Legal" patent examining functions (e.g., the application of legal precedents, the determination of instructions from the supervisor and all determinations involving legal questions are subject to close review. Actions prior to final are normally submitted in final form, with references, for close review. Issue cases and final rejections are reported orally and/or submitted in draft form, with references, for close review.



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QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Chemical Engineering and Materials Science positions require a four-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. Qualification requirements in the vacancy announcement are based on OPM Qualifications Standards for General Schedule positions. For a detailed explanation of other ways to qualify refer to the Qualification Standards Statement below. It is also available for your review at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications>.

Basic Requirements:

A. Degree: Professional engineering. To be acceptable, the curriculum must: (1) be in a school of engineering with at least one curriculum accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) as a professional engineering curriculum; or (2) include differential calculus and courses (more advanced than first year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics: 1) statics, dynamics; 2) strength of materials (stress-strain relationships); 3) fluid mechanics, hydraulics; 4) thermodynamics; 5) electrical fields and circuits; 6) nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); 7) any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics.

OR

B. Combination of education and experience – college-level education, training, and/or technical experience that furnished (1) a thorough knowledge of the physical and mathematical sciences underlying professional engineering, and (2) a good understanding, both theoretical and practical, of the engineering sciences and techniques and their applications to one of the branches of engineering. The adequacy of such background must be demonstrated by one of the following:

- **Professional registration** – Current registration as a professional engineer by any State, the District of Columbia, Guam, or Puerto Rico. Absent other means of qualifying under this standard, those applicants who achieved such registration by means other than written test (e.g., State grandfather or eminence provisions) are eligible only for positions that are within or closely related to the specialty field of their registration. For example, an applicant who attains registration through a State Board's eminence provision as a manufacturing engineer typically would be rated eligible only for manufacturing engineering positions.
- **Written test** – Evidence of having successfully passed the Engineer-In-Training (EIT) examination, or the written test required for professional registration, which is administered by the Boards of Engineering Examiners in the various States, the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Applicants who have passed the EIT examination and have completed all the requirements for either (a) a bachelor's degree in engineering technology (BET) from an accredited college or university that included 60 semester hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences, or (b) a BET from a program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) may be rated eligible for certain engineering positions at GS-5. Eligibility is limited to positions that are within or closely related to the specialty field of the engineering technology program. Applicants for positions that involve highly technical research, development, or similar functions requiring an advanced level of competence in basic science must meet the basic requirements in paragraph A.

Because of the diversity in kind and quality of BET programs, graduates of other BET programs are required to complete at least 1 year of additional education or highly technical work experience of such nature as to provide reasonable assurance of the possession of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for professional engineering competence. The adequacy of this background must be demonstrated by passing the EIT examination.

- **Specified academic courses** – Successful completion of at least 60 semester hours of courses in the physical, mathematical, and engineering sciences and in engineering that included the courses specified in the basic requirements. The courses must be fully acceptable toward meeting the requirements of a professional engineering curriculum as described in paragraph A.
- **Related curriculum** – Successful completion of a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree in engineering technology or in an appropriate professional field, e.g., physics, chemistry, architecture, computer science, mathematics, hydrology, or geology, may be accepted in lieu of a degree in engineering, provided the applicant has had at least 1 year of professional engineering experience acquired under professional engineering supervision and guidance. Ordinarily there should be either an established plan of intensive training to develop professional engineering competence, or several years of prior professional engineering-type experience, e.g., in interdisciplinary positions. (The above examples of related curricula are not all-inclusive.)



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Note: An applicant who meets the basic requirements as specified in A or B above may qualify for positions in any branch of engineering unless selective factors indicate otherwise, or unless he/she qualifies under the provisions of B.2 related to the EIT examination or BET degree.

Some engineering curricula are acceptable as meeting the basic requirements even though such curricula are not specifically accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. As a general rule, any professional engineering curriculum in an engineering school that has one or more of its curricula accredited by ABET may be accepted. It should be noted, however, that some universities have curricula identified as engineering curricula outside the engineering school, e.g., in the school of architecture or forestry. Such curricula need to be reviewed to see if they comply with the requirements of paragraph A.(2) of the basic requirements.

For the GS-11: In addition to meeting the basic entry qualification requirements, applicants must have three years of progressively higher level graduate education in biochemistry, chemistry, material science, pharmacology, physics, polymer science or one of the engineering fields leading to a Ph.D. degree *or* Ph.D. or equivalent doctoral degree or 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to the GS-09 level.

Evaluation of Qualified Candidates: If qualified, ratings will be based on an evaluation of the quality and extent of experience, education, and training in relation to the following knowledge's, skills, and abilities.

Failure to address each factor in your resume may have an impact upon your rating.

- 1) The ability to apply fundamental and diversified professional engineering concepts, theories and practices to achieve objectives with versatility, judgment, and perception;
- 2) The ability to adapt and apply methods and techniques of related scientific disciplines; and
- 3) The ability to organize, analyze, interpret, and communicate findings to patent practitioners/inventors on the patentability of applicant's inventions

CTAP/ICTAP, well qualified means that the applicant is eligible, qualified, and clearly exceeds qualification requirements for the position as demonstrated by either: (1) meeting selective and qualify ranking factors levels as specified by the agency; or (2) being rated above the minimally qualified under the agency's specific rating and ranking process. Candidates will be rated well qualified if they score 90 or above based on the responses to the occupational questions in the Patent Examiner Employment Application.

OTHER INFORMATION:

Your application package must include an original or copy of an official college transcript(s) and a resume or form OF-612. Failure to submit any of these items will result in no further consideration. If you make a false statement in any part of your application (or resume), you may not be hired or you may be removed after being hired.

U.S. Citizenship is a requirement for this position.

Conditions of Employment:

If you are selected for this position you will be required to complete a Declaration for Federal Employment (OF-306) to determine your suitability for Federal employment, authorizes a background investigation, and certify the accuracy of all the information in your application (or resume).



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A background security investigation will be required for all new appointments. Your continued employment will be subject to your successful completion of a background security investigation and favorable adjudication. Failure to successfully meet these requirements will be grounds for termination.

If you are selected, you will be required to schedule an appointment for fingerprinting and badging prior to your entrance on duty date.

1-Year Probationary Period is a requirement of this position.

Veterans Preference:

Eligible veterans claiming 5-Point Preference must submit a copy of their DD-214 (which states type of discharge); all 10-Point Preference eligibles must submit a completed Standard Form 15 (Application for 10-Point Veteran Preference), a DD-214 (which states type of discharge), and supporting documents required (see the reverse side of the SF-15, items B and C) in order to receive veterans' preference.

Selective Service:

If you are a male over age 18 who was born after December 31, 1959, you must have registered with the Selective Service System (or have an exemption) to be eligible for a Federal job.

PAY, BENEFITS, AND WORK SCHEDULE:

Selectee will be eligible for health and life insurance, annual leave (vacation), sick leave and will be covered under the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS) or Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), and the Thrift Savings Plan.

All Federal employees are required by Public Law 104-134 to have Federal payments made by Direct Deposit. Your pay grade and step will be set in accordance with Federal pay regulations.



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HOW TO APPLY: ALL APPLICANTS ARE TO APPLY USING THE ON-LINE EXAMINER EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION AT: WWW.USPTO.GOV. FIRST TIME VISITORS CLICK ON USPTO JOB OPPORTUNITIES; SLECT APPLY ON-LINE PATENT EXAMINER JOB APPLICATION. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET, PLEASE CALL 1-800-786-9757 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:30 AM AND 5:00 PM TO REQUEST A COPY OF THE PATENT EXAMINER EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION.

FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION CALL: Mariko Togashi (571) 272-6440 TDD# 1-800-828-1120 or Relay System
For more employment opportunities visit our web site at WWW.USPTO.GOV

MAILING ADDRESS:

US Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop 171 (JARS)
Office of Human Resources
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

WHERE TO APPLY IN PERSON:

US Patent and Trademark Office
Office of Human Resources
Elizabeth Townhouse
550 Elizabeth Lane Room 1A72
Alexandria, VA

What Happens Next

Once documentation needed to complete your application is received, Human Resources will conduct an evaluation of your qualifications. The most highly qualified candidates will be referred to the hiring manager for further considerations and possible interview. The process may take 4-6 weeks before you receive a response. You may check the status of your application by doing one of the following:

1. Via E-mail inquiry to JARSAdmin@uspto.gov or by
2. Calling 1-800-786-9757, Monday through Friday, hours of operation 8:30 am to 5:00 pm or
3. Contact the HR Specialist listed on the vacancy announcement.



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The United States Patent and Trademark Office will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If a reasonable accommodation is needed for any part of the application process, please notify the human resources representative identified under the 'How To Apply' section of this announcement. Decisions on reasonable accommodation will be made on a case-by-case basis.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONSIDERED REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE COLOR, SEX, CREED, NATIONAL ORIGIN, LAWFUL POLITICAL AFFILIATION, NON-DISQUALIFYING HANDICAP, MARITAL STATUS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AFFILIATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION, OR OTHER NON-MERIT FACTOR.

I. REGARDLESS OF WHICH APPLICATION FORM/FORMAT IS USED, APPLICANTS SHOULD ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:

1. **The announcement number, title and grade of the position for which you are applying.**
 - a. Hours per week,
 - b. Salary
 - c. Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor.
2. **Personal information**
 - a. Full name, mailing address (including ZIP Code), home and work telephone numbers (including area codes)
 - b. Social security number
 - c. Country of citizenship
 - d. Veteran's preference: If you wish to claim 5-point veterans preference or if you are applying under the Veterans Readjustment Appointment provisions, you must include dates of military service and a copy of each Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, DD-214. If you are claiming 10-point veterans preference, you must also include SF-15 and the appropriate proof required by that form.
 - e. Competitive status: if you are a current or former Federal employee, and if the announcement is open to status applicants only or if you wish to be considered as a status applicant, you must submit a copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, which shows you have status.
 - f. Veterans who are preference eligible or who have been separated from the armed forces with honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous active service may apply. (Under merit promotion procedures.)
 - g. Highest federal civilian grade held, including job series and dates held.
3. **Education**
 - a. High school - name, city, state and ZIP Code (if known) and date you received diploma or GED.
 - b. Colleges and universities - name, city, state and ZIP Code (if known), majors(s), type(s) of degree(s) received and date(s) received. If you did not receive a degree, show total credits earned and indicate whether semester or quarter hours. Submit copies of undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts if the announcement specifies minimum education requirements, if you are qualifying based on allowable substitution of education for experience or if you are qualifying based on Superior Academic Achievement (see the announcement for details).
4. **Job-Related Work Experience (Paid and Non paid)**
 - a. Job title (include series and grade if Federal)
 - b. Duties and accomplishments
 - c. Employer's name and address
 - d. Supervisor's name and telephone number
 - e. Starting and ending dates (month and year)
 - f. Hours per week,
 - g. Salary
 - h. Indicate if we may contact your current supervisor.
5. **Other Qualifications**
 - a. Job-related training courses (title and year)
 - b. Job-related skills (i.e., other languages, computer hardware/software, tools machinery, etc.)
 - c. Typing and/or stenography speed
 - d. Job-related certificates and licenses (current only). Do not send copies unless required in the announcement.
 - e. Job-related honors, awards and special accomplishments (i.e., publications, memberships in professional or honor societies, leadership activities, public speaking, performance awards, etc.) Give dates but do not send documents unless requested.

II. CTAP/ICTAP

1. CTAP candidates must apply for the vacancy, submit proof of eligibility for CTAP consideration, have a current performance rating of record of at least fully successful or the equivalent, and be within the Washington, D.C. Commuting area.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Applications mailed in Government franked envelopes will not be considered.
2. Applications submitted by telefax will not be considered.
3. Applications submitted by email will not be considered.
4. Applications submitted by mail with a postmark of on or before the closing date of this announcement will be considered only if received in the USPTO, Office of Human Resources, within five (5) working days of the closing date.
5. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements by the closing date of the vacancy announcement.

NOTICE TO ALL APPLICANTS: US Patent and Trademark Office programs are accessible to people with disabilities. This document will be converted to an appropriate alternative form for applicants with disabilities. Requests for this or other assistance and accommodation should be directed to the contact above.



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6. Applicants must be citizens of the United States (or owe allegiance to the United States).
7. Applicants with disabilities, disabled veterans, or any other applicants eligible for non-competitive appointment under special appointing authorities not requiring competitive status should clearly specify their special eligibility on their application.
8. If selected, male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must confirm their selective service registration status. Certification forms are available at most Federal agency personnel offices or from the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.
9. Applications will not be returned to applicants.
10. Applicants will receive notification of the outcome of a vacancy announcement as soon as possible after a selection is made.
11. If a vacant position is filled at a grade below the full performance level, the selectee may be promoted without further competition. However, this implies no promise or guarantee of promotion.
12. Privacy Act requirements (PL 93-579): the application forms prescribed are used to determine qualification for promotion, reassignment, or employment and are authorized under Title 5, U.S.C. sections 3302 and 3360.